

Message Text

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ORIGIN SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 H-02 L-03 CAB-05 /029 R

DRAFTED BY CA/SCS: SJTUCKER/SJD
APPROVED BY CA/SCS: LPMULLIN
-----105234 042316Z /75
O 042147Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CPRS: UK

SUBJECT: COMPLAINTS AGAINST NATIONWIDE LEISURE, INC.

1. DEPT HAS JUST RECEIVED WORD FROM MR. STEPHEN METOYER OF CAB THAT GROUP OF AMCITS ON TOUR WITH NATIONWIDE LEISURE, INC ENCOUNTERING DIFFICULTY. TOUR GROUP REGISTERED AT PARK LANE AND METROPOL. ACCORDING TO MR. METOYER, GROUP WAS SCHEDULED TO DEPART YESTERDAY, AUGUST 3, BUT WAS "BUMPED". AS A RESULT, GROUP INCURRED DOLS 900 (NINE HUNDRED) DEBT FOR ADDITIONAL NIGHT AT HOTELS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT NATIONWIDE LEISURE OWES PARK LANE, METROPOL AND SEVERAL OTHER HOTELS TOTAL OF DOLS 9,000 (NINE THOUSAND). IF NATIONWIDE LEISURE DOES NOT SEND ENTIRE AMOUNT OWED, SALTOURS HAS THREATENED TO CHARGE EACH MEMBER OF GROUP INDIVIDUALLY. WE HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO DETERMINE HOW MUCH MONEY HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY NATIONWIDE LEISURE FOR GROUP IN QUESTION OR BY WHAT MEANS FUNDS TRANSFERRED.

2. POST REQUESTED TO CONTACT HOTELS TO DETERMINE WHETHER AMCITS MAY BE HELD LIABLE FOR DEBTS OF NATIONWIDE LEISURE.
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SINCE AMCITS PAID FOR TOUR PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FROM U.S., EMBASSY SHOULD MAKE EFFORTS TO ENSURE THAT THEY NOT HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYMENT. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT AMCITS MAY

HAVE TO PAY FOR ADDITIONAL NIGHT AT HOTEL SINCE TOUR PACKET DID NOT INCLUDE ADDITIONAL STAY. SINCE LOCAL BUS COMPANIES CONTRACTED BY NATIONWIDE LEISURE HAVE REFUSED TO

TRANSPORT PASSENGERS TO AIRPORT IN OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, AMCITS SHOULD BE PREPARED TO COVER COST OF TRAVEL BETWEEN HOTEL AND AIRPORT.

3. DEPT HAS DISCUSSED PROBLEMS OF AMCITS IN LONDON WITH MR. GRAY GAROFALO, ATTORNEY FOR NATIONWIDE LEISURE. CAB HAS ALREADY GRANTED VARIOUS WAIVERS TO TOUR AGENCY, INCLUDING THE USE OF ESCROW FUNDS HELD BY IRVING TRUST IN NEW YORK, IN AN ATTEMPT TO ASSIST. HOWEVER, CAB DID NOT AUTHORIZE USE OF ESCROW FUNDS TO PAY PAST DEBTS. MR. GAROFALO HAS NOW REQUESTED THAT CAB GRANT WAIVER TO COVER PAST DEBT OWED TO SALTOURS IN LONDON. HE DOES NOT KNOW WHETHER WAIVER WILL BE GRANTED.

4. FOR POST INFO: NATIONWIDE LEISURE IS EXPERIENCING SERIOUS FINANCIAL PROBLEMS. WE HAVE HAD SIMILAR COMPLAINTS FROM HOTELS AND GROUND TRANSPORTATION COMPANIES IN OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO DETERMINE WHEN OR HOW NATIONWIDE LEISURE, INC. WILL ARRANGE TO PAY OUTSTANDING DEBTS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT MAJORITY OF TOURS ORGANIZED BY TOUR AGENCY HAVE BEEN CANCELLED.

5. PLEASE KEEP DEPT INFORMED OF THE STATUS OF AMCIT TOURISTS MENTIONED PARA 1. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE197543
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SJTUCKER/SJD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780320-0030
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780896/aaaadcum.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 76921d68-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SCS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1831608
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMPLAINTS AGAINST NATIONWIDE LEISURE, INC.
TAGS: CPRS, UK, US, NATIONWIDE LEISURE INC
To: LONDON
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/76921d68-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014